



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 06/26/2012 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2012-15532>, and on [FDsys.gov](http://FDsys.gov)

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

ACTION: Notice of Request for Renewal of Previously Approved Collection Form FMCS F-7.

-----  
SUMMARY: The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) invites comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the renewal of the Notice to Mediation Agencies Form (FMCS Form F-7; OMB control number 3076-0004). The request will seek a three-year extension. There are no changes being submitted with this request. FMCS is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [60 days from the date of publication].

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments by mail to the Office of Arbitration Services, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, 2100 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20427 or by contacting the person whose name appears under the section titled FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. Comments may be submitted also by fax at (202) 606-3749 or electronic mail (e-mail) to [arbitration@fmcs.gov](mailto:arbitration@fmcs.gov). All comments must be identified by the appropriate agency form number. No confidential business information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of the information as "CBI". Information so marked will not be disclosed but a copy of the comment that does contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. FMCS may disclose information not marked confidential publicly without prior notice. All written comments will be available for inspection in Room 704 at the Washington, DC address above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vella M. Traynham, Director of Arbitration Services, FMCS, 2100 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20427. Telephone (202) 606-5111; Fax (202) 606-3749.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Notice to Mediation Agencies (FMCS Form 7; OMB control number 3076-0004) are available from the Office of Arbitration Services by calling, faxing or writing to Vella M. Traynham at the address above. Please ask for the form by title and agency form number.

#### I. Information Collection Requests

FMCS is seeking comments on the following Information Collection Request (ICR).

Title: Notice to Mediation Agencies; FMCS Form F-7; OMB No. 3076-0004;  
Expiration date: October 1, 2012.

Type of Request: Request for Renewal of a previously approved notice without changes in the collection.

Affected Entities: Parties affected by this information collection are private sector employers and labor unions involved in interstate commerce who file notices for mediation services to the FMCS.

Frequency: Parties complete this form once, which is at the time of an impending expiration of a collective bargaining agreement.

Abstract: Under the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, 29 U.S.C. 158(d), Congress listed specific notice provisions so that no party to a collective bargaining agreement can terminate or modify a collective bargaining contract, unless the party wishing to terminate or modify the contract sends a written notice to the other party sixty days prior to the expiration date (29 U.S.C. 158(d)(1)), and offers to meet and confer with the other party for the purpose of negotiating a new or modified contract (29 U.S.C. 158(d)(2)). The Act requires that parties notify FMCS within thirty days after such notice of the existence of a bargaining dispute (29 U.S.C. 158(d)(3)). The 1974 amendments to the National Labor Relations Act extended

coverage to nonprofit health care institutions, including similar notices to FMCS. 29 U.S.C. 158(d) and (g). To facilitate handling around 14,400 notices a year, FMCS created information collection form F-7. The purpose of this information collection activity is for FMCS to comply with its statutory duty to receive these notices, to facilitate assignment of mediators to assist in labor disputes, and to assist the parties in knowing whether or not proper notice was given. The information from these notices is sent electronically to the appropriate field manager who assigns the cases to a mediator so that the mediator may contact labor and management quickly, efficiently, and offer dispute resolution services. Either party to a contract may make a request in writing for a copy of the notice filed with FMCS. Form F-7 was created to allow FMCS to gather desired information in a uniform manner. The collection of such information, including the name of the employer or employer association, address and phone number, e-mail address, official contact, bargaining unit and establishment size, location of affected establishment and negotiations, industry, union address, phone number, e-mail address and official contact, contract expiration date or renewal date, whether the notice is filed on behalf of the employer or the union, and whether this is a health care industry notice is critical for reporting and mediation purposes.

Burden Statement: The current annual burden estimate is approximately 14,400 respondents. The annual hour burden is estimated at 2,400 hours, approximately 10 minutes for each notice to fill out a one-page form.

## II. Request for Comments

FMCS solicits comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information to be collected will have practical utility.

(ii) Enhance the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information.

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic collection technologies or other forms of information technology.

### III. The Official Record

The official record is the paper electronic record maintained at the address at the beginning of this document. FMCS will transfer all electronically received comments into printed-paper form as they are received.

Dated: June 21, 2012.

Jeannette Walters-Marquez

Attorney-Advisor

BILLING CODE 6732-01